

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, claims 1-14 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE99/03219, and adds new claims 15-28. The new claims conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

The amendments to the specification and abstract reflected in the substitute specification are to conform the specification and abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules, and do not introduce new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE99/03219 includes an International Search Report and a revised International Search Report, copies of which is included. The Search Reports includes a list of documents that were considered by the Examiner in the underlying PCT application.

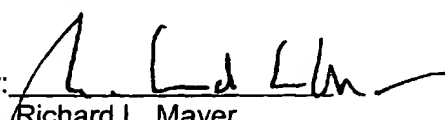
The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE99/03219 also includes an International Preliminary Examination Report, issued September 1, 2000. A translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report is included herewith.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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